(16)

AN ADDRESS FROM THE *People of DURHAM,*

To the Lord General and Councel of Officers. 28*th.* April 1653.

To his Excellency my Lord Generall, and the reſt of his Councell of Officers.

The humble and harty Acknowledgments of many honeſt People in the County of Durham, declaring as followeth.

WEE receiving a Declaration from his Excellency and you the 26*th.* of this inſtant Aprill; upon the reading whereof, we were at firſt like Men in a dreame, and could hardly beleeve for rejoyceing, to ſee the wonderfull goodnes and kindenes of God, in renueing a remembrance of your former engagements for this poore nation, whoſe freedome the Lord hath made you inſtruments to purchaſe at ſo deere a rate, from that ſlaverie and bondage they were formerly involved in; all which God hath beene wonderfully pleaſed to crowne, not with ordinary ſucceſſe, but with almoſt miraculous diſcoveryes of his preſence with you, to the great ſatisfaction of all honeſt godly harts, and to the conviction of others, forcing them

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them to ſay for a truth, God is there. We need not mention the particulers, wherein God hath ſoe wonderfully appeared, it being ſoe obvious to all Mens eyes; and this laſt act is not the leaſt to diſcover the continuation of the Lords preſence with your hearts, in moveing you to deſolve this preſent Parliament, whoſe actions, in theſe latter dayes, were ſo contrarie to their own declarations and the armye's engagement, that wee did almoſt begin to conclude that our oppreſſions would be as greate as ever; and though the ſence of our unkindnes to God cauſes us to conclude it is juſt from him, yet wee thought it very ſtrange from them. And that which did very much add to our ſorrow, was the feare of God's preſence withdrawing from you, which feare was cauſed by your long ſilence; but now to ſee the Lord hath againe quickened you, is as life to our dying expectations, and doth exceedingly engage our hearts, as to acknowledge God in you, ſoe to continue ſeeking the Lord for you, that you may not ſtay nor bee diſcouraged in the great worke you have in hand, but that you may goe on as Inſtruments to perfect the freedome of the poore People in this Nation. And for that end Wee doe earneſtly beſeech the Lord, that you may be kept low in yourſelves, and that neither your former glorious Victories and Succeſſes, nor the eminent imployment that God hath now put you upon, may any way take you off from a ſinguler looking upon God in it, nor any oppoſitions (which we feare may be many) may diſcourage you in the proſecution of what is begun, but that you may ſtill goe on in the worke, as God's worke; and be confident it is honeſty God will owne, and make honourable in theſe dayes. And although your extraordinary attempts,

tempts, which neceſſity put you upon, to make good your engagements to God and this poore nation, may ſeeme ſtrange to ſome, yet to thoſe who follow the footeſtepps of Providence with you, and have been often at the Throne of Grace for you, cannot but acknowledge it as a great mercy from God, cauſeing you to act for our freedome, through ſuch great Difficulties.

Wee make bold, in the behalfe of many hundred honeſt hearts in this County, being deſired by many of them to write to you, to let you know how much wee deſire to bleſſe God for ſtill owneing you, and to ſhew you how much our hearts owne you in this action of late, and with all to deſire the Lord to give us hearts that we may be earneſt with him, that he may always be wiſedome and ſtrength for you, in directing you in the way for a new repreſentative, that may ſettle this poore nation in its proper rights and freedoms, which hath been long expected. And were it not troubleſome and tedious to preſent ſome overtures, we ſhould make bold to ſpeake ſomething for this poore County, which hath for a long time layd under many oppreſſions; and the more, for that by the uſurpation and pride of the Biſhopps, there was never that liberty given us for the choyce of Parliament Men, to ſpeake out our grievances, or to attempt our deliverance, ſutable to all other Countyes in the Nation, and which allmoſt all Counties had (this excepted;) but we cannot doubt of the enjoyment of that privilege for the future, it being ſoe fully expreſſed in your declarations. Therefore we only take liberty humbly to preſent

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our conditions, which is not only ſadd, but ſingular; begging of God to minde us in appearing with you, wee take leave to ſubſcribe our ſelves,

My Lord, and honourable Councell;

Your humble Servants, under that engagement that requires our Lives, and all that is ours to ſtand by You.

Durham, April 28, 1653.

Signed by Us upon the requeſt, and in the behalfe of many.

Jo. Middleton	Richard Lee
Timothie Draper	Anthony Smith
Will. Pariſh	John Harriſon
Fran. Wilkinſon	B. Hobſon
John Jopling	John Brackenbury
John Readſham	Hen. Draper
William Priſcott	William Wharton
Nicholas Byerley	Cuth. Rayne
John Joplin	Geo. Bateman
R. Webb	Ed. Thirkelde
Geo. Hall	Edward Alwaine.
Ralph Belley	

To his Excellency the Lord Generall Cromwell, *and his Councell of Officers, theſe preſent*, London.

DE 55